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SERVICE DATE – AUGUST 19, 2005

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-979X

CONNECTICUT SOUTHERN RAILROAD, INC.–ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION–IN
HARTFORD COUNTY, CT

Decided: August 18, 2005

Connecticut Southern Railroad, Inc. (CSO) filed a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F–Exempt Abandonments to abandon a 942-foot long stub-ended line of railroad extending from milepost 9.4 (Station 5673+42 on the north side of Colonial Drive) to the end of the line at milepost 9.6 (Station 5664+00), in Manchester, Hartford County, CT. Notice of the exemption was served and published in the Federal Register on June 29, 2005 (70 FR 37491-92). The exemption became effective on July 29, 2005.

By decision served on July 28, 2005, the proceeding was reopened at the request of the Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) and the exemption was made subject to the condition that, pending completion of the Connecticut Historic Preservation Officer's (SHPO) review, CSO retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites and structures on the right-of-way that are 50 years old or older until completion of the section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f. The historic condition was imposed because the SHPO had not completed its assessment of the proposed abandonment at the time SEA prepared its environmental assessment.

On August 10, 2005, CSO submitted comments from the SHPO stating that the proposed abandonment will have no effect on historic, architectural, or archaeological resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, based on the SHPO's comments, SEA recommends that the section 106 preservation condition imposed in the July 28, 2005 decision be removed.

Accordingly, the proceeding will be reopened and the previously imposed historic preservation condition will be removed.

This decision will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. This proceeding is reopened.
2. Upon reconsideration, the section 106 historic preservation condition imposed in the July 28, 2005 decision is removed.
3. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, David M. Konschnik, Director, Office of Proceedings.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary